

# BLANKET INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT IN CITY WORKERS' SALARIES ASKED IN NOTE

A blanket salary raise for all city employees and department heads of 20 per cent is requested in a letter to the City Council signed by the various heads of department.

This would increase the annual payroll of the city of Torrance by approximately \$72,000, according to estimates.

At present, the payroll is approximately \$30,000 per month.

There are about 145 regular employees of the city and some 15 special employees, including volunteer firemen.

The increase in pay would make the beginning wage of most new city employees \$204 a month rather than the \$170 a month, as is the present starting pay in most departments.

The increase requested probably will go before the City Council for consideration at its next meeting, March 20.

The fact that the request came from the department heads rather than the City Employees Union brought the revelation that the union has just been reorganized after having been suspended by the international union.

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1946

## NATIONAL SUPPLY, IDECO SIGN NEW UNION CONTRACTS; NORMAL OPERATION RESUMED

Two of the largest plants of Torrance now are operating under new contracts with labor unions, as a result of long negotiations.

The National Supply Company's Torrance plant signed an agreement with Oil Workers International Union, C.I.O., effective March 14, 1946, providing for an increase of wages amounting to 18 1/2 cents per hour for all but 16 classifications, including chippers; shake-out operators; furnace operator, electric arc; crane men, ladle, forge and mobile boom; electricians; inspectors; storekeepers; trucker (powered); machine and crane oilers, receiving wage increases of 21 1/2 cents per hour. A five cents per hour shift premium was allowed.

The National agreement remains in effect until May 1, 1947.

International Derrick & Equipment Co., Torrance works, signed a contract with the United Steelworkers of America, C.I.O., providing for an increase of wages amounting to 18 1/2 cents per hour, and reopened for operations on Monday.

Retroactive provisions were eliminated by the workers, in the new Torrance agreement.

While IDECO had been closed by the steelworkers' strike Jan. 16, National remained in operation under a temporary agreement after a shutdown of but a few days.

"Thus it appeared that all Torrance plants effected in recent days have been returned to normal operation."

From Fresno: Mrs. B. C. Buxton, of 1500 El Prado, has returned following a visit with her daughters, Mrs. Virginia Scott and Mrs. Margaret Grow. She was accompanied home by her granddaughter, Sandra, who will remain for an indefinite visit.

Publication of City Directory For Torrance Undertaken By Publishers

Filling a long felt need, Torrance will soon have a new city directory, according to Grover and George J. Inskip, Jr., proprietors of the Western Directory Co., who are already working on the preparation of the book.

This is the same firm which compiled the last city directory, published in October, 1941.

While the 1941 directory has been acclaimed the most accurate and complete ever published here, the Messrs. Inskip state that the new 1946 directory will be much more attractive in appearance, with a stiff volume-type cover and leatherette binding.

It will contain four sections: (1) the complete alphabetical list of all Torrance residents 18 years of age and over, with street addresses, P. O. Box numbers, telephone numbers, and the occupation of the head of the family; (2) a business firm directory; (3) a classified buyer's guide; and (4) a street and house guide listing the names of streets in alphabetical order and numbers of houses and business firms in numerical order.

This section will also give the name of the head of the family, and will designate if he is a home-owner and has a telephone at that address.

By arrangement with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, an accurate population count of the entire area included in the canvass will be taken, including the number of children under 18 years of age.

East Torrance included All the territory within the city limits of Torrance will be canvassed, including Walteria, Hollywood-Rivera, and North Torrance, as well as the Los Angeles shoe string strip and the county territory within the shopping area of Torrance as far east as Harbor Blvd. (Main St.).

The 1941 directory canvass only extended to Vermont ave., but on request of Chamber of Commerce directors, the publishers have agreed to extend the canvass east to and including Main street between East road and Ocean ave. However, a separate population count will be kept of the area included within the city limits of Torrance, as well as the Los Angeles Shoe String and County area east of the city. It is believed that this accurate population count will be useful to City departments in their contacts with other governmental agencies in the allocation of public funds, etc.

Canvass Begins April 15 While the preliminary work of selling advertising is now in progress, actual canvass of houses will not begin until April 15, in order that the data will be as up-to-date as possible, according to Messrs. Inskip. All canvassers will be local residents familiar with the territory. Sufficient canvassers will be employed to complete the work in four or five weeks, it was stated.

Endorsed by C. of C. At their meeting Tuesday, directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce endorsed the Western Directory Company in its efforts to publish a new city directory. Printing of the book will be done in the Torrance Herald plant, and distribution of the new directory is planned for July 1.

Conner Reelected VFW Commander; Vernon Coil, H. B. Lewis Chosen

Election of officers for the year 1946 was held by the Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in the Civic Auditorium, Torrance, Monday night.

The following officers were elected: Earl Conner, Commander, re-elected.

Vernon W. Coil, Senior Vice Commander.

Harry B. Lewis, Junior Vice Commander.

Fred C. Marsteller, Chaplain re-elected.

Alvin E. Palmer, Quartermaster.

A. Levine, Post Advocate.

## Herald's Stand For Public Meetings Hit In Howard P. Raymond Letter

(Editor's Note: The Torrance Herald is happy to print the letter which follows, written by Howard P. Raymond as chairman of the Torrance Civil Service Commission, which offers his viewpoint on what the Herald believes are the commission's "assumed rights" to bar the public or press from meetings of the commission. These "assumed rights" were the subject of a recent editorial in the Herald. A careful survey of City Ordinance 826, under which the civil service system of the city and members of the Civil Service Board operate, fails to disclose any provision which can be construed as permitting the board to bar anyone from its meetings. The Civil Service Board is a public body and as such its meetings must be kept open to the public, no matter what situation or person any deliberation may involve. Anything but public meetings smacks of the thing which the United Nations so victoriously overthrew in Europe and Asia in the recent war. Further, no person has the right to "advise" the commission to hold certain of its deliberations in private, in the opinion of this newspaper. Certainly it is for the protection of the worker who may be involved in a hearing that all testimony and consideration of evidence be conducted open and above board, before the public, if the public desires access to the hearings. We gladly print Mr. Raymond's letter, but we heartily disagree with his reasoning.)

Editor, Torrance Herald:

In answer to your editorial in the Herald of February 14 I wonder why you could not have spent a few minutes of your time and called me to give my side of this story on closed doors at Civil Service meetings instead of getting your information from a very unreliable source and printing it. Civil service was originated for the protection of workers. We seldom have a meeting, but what some city employees do not come to us to adjust some grievance or iron out some difficulty invariable something he would not care to have made public. This was the case in the meeting you refer to in your editorial. The three so called gentlemen you refer to in your editorial came during this discussion and I asked them to wait in the front office until we had finished with these employees. They did so very reluctantly after making a sarcastic remark. I called them back after excusing the others and they stayed in

the meeting until a few minutes before we adjourned.

We have followed this procedure ever since we have had Civil service in Torrance. We have never felt it fair to air the troubles of employees before the public and other employees. It is embarrassing to the employee, lowers the morale of the worker and has a disruptive influence. Also the reading of efficiency and probationary reports. We read these reports privately and if they need adjustment we call in the employee and help him to get straightened out without embarrassment to him.

We do not think they should be made public as they concern the employee only. If you were a city employee would you want your affairs made public? I don't think so. I have heard you say on several occasions that you printed news as it was given to you but I have never heard you say you tried to get both sides of a story in order to give a correct version. Try it some time, I believe it will make you friends.

In regard to the many nights of hard work that went into the setting up and later the administering of the Civil Service I

(Continued on Page 6-A)

Forced Landing Marks First Of Many Air Treks

Twenty one airplanes from the Civil Air Patrol's Third Group carried 43 pilots and passengers to an airfield in San Bernardino early Sunday morning, where they were met by the Stiek and Kudder Club. The northern club members were hosts to the local patrol at a breakfast shortly following their arrival. Official host was Herbert Nicholson, boyhood friend of Major C. H. Holmes, Third Group CAP Commander.

Enroute to San Bernardino, the plane in which Lt. George Turner was flying with Mrs. Virginia Wilcox, daughter of Major C. H. Holmes, developed lock in the fuel line, forcing the pair to land on an abandoned air strip near Fontana.

Turner said that Mrs. Wilcox was flying the plane at the time the engine quit which marked her first forced landing at the controls.

March 31, the local flight group will be host to the Stiek and Rudder Club here, and will treat the club to an early breakfast at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

Torrance and Lomita Residents Give Thanks For First Good Rain Of Year

Torrance and Lomita joined yesterday for rain of just the kind it wanted. In most places it was an intermittent fall that tended to soak in. The majority of farmland localities reported more than an inch of rain for the day and in many it was close to or over the inch mark.

In Torrance, the rainfall was quite consistent starting early yesterday.

The Weather Bureau forecast partly cloudy and cooler weather today.

While it was a "good" rain, Kenneth L. Wolff, Deputy County Agricultural Commissioner, Tuesday pointed out that the land still "hasn't had near enough."

What the weatherman said may be the season's last snowfall for winter sports enthusiasts started in mountain areas Tuesday with 3.7 inches recorded up to 5 p. m. and snow still

## PARKING METER INTERESTS ATTEMPT TO SELL CITY ON TORRANCE INSTALLATION

That outside interests are attempting to "sell" the City of Torrance on the installation of parking meters was revealed this week as a poll of merchants was undertaken to determine their attitude on the proposal.

Hearing of the idea that parking meters are being considered for the central business district, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors Tuesday night decided that before any move is made by the city, the business men of the community should be contacted for their viewpoint on the subject.

Already considerable opposition to the idea of installing parking meters in Torrance has been expressed.

The principal arguments are that the meters in no way solve a parking problem and that in no way do they eliminate a police problem.

Parking meters simply are "revenue builders," and the City of Torrance, with its \$27,000,000 assessed valuation and many other resources is in no need of the meagre revenue which comes from parking meters, it is pointed out.

Suggestion of the installation of the parking meters has brought to light two other proposals involving downtown traffic.

One is the idea that a one-hour parking limit in the central district is needed.

The other is that off-street parking is the only answer to central business district parking problems.

That municipally owned parking lots in the center of central district blocks, served by the 20-foot wide alleys, are needed, is a point being stressed.

The parking meter suggestion, it is said, is expected to die a quick death, in view of opposition already revealed.

City Employees Union Installs New Officers

The City Employees Union number 360 installed new officers last week following a recent election which was delayed since last December. In the election, Carmel Cook was voted president, but resigned the following week. The newly elected recording secretary, P. S. Cruze, also resigned, a union spokesman said.

Installed as first vice president was John Waugh, and Edith Smith as second vice president; Walter C. Silence as financial secretary; Jim Polston as sergeant of arms and Jack Stephens as chief steward.

Levy's Daughter, Husband, Hurt In Corona Accident

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schwartz of Torrance were painfully injured yesterday afternoon when the car in which they were riding skidded on wet pavement and crashed into a bridge near Corona. The young couple was returning from Palm Springs. Mrs. Schwartz is the former Ella Levy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Levy.

Mrs. Schwartz sustained a badly cut leg and her husband, who was driving the Levy family car, suffered an oblique fracture of the leg below the knee.

Upon being notified of the accident by Corona police, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, with Dr. A. P. Stevenson, left immediately for the Corona hospital, where the injured couple are expected to be confined for about two weeks.

Torrance Weather Record Official U. S. Weather Bureau

TEMPERATURE

Mar.	Maxi.	Mini.	Set
13	59	40	53
14	62	41	59
15	64	47	59
16	71	55	60
17	70	46	54
18	63	49	58
19	58	46	54

40 NEW HOMES PROPOSED

Ground is scheduled to be broken Monday on a proposed project of 40 homes, according to E. A. Smythe, contractor for O. E. Goodman of Wilmington, who has been issued a permit to build one of the 40 homes on a lot north of Pacific Coast highway between 228th and 240th sts., east of Hawthorne Blvd.

## Three Service Clubs To Hear Of Youth Plan

Members of the three service clubs of Torrance are to meet tonight in the Woman's clubhouse to hear Cecil L. Whitehead of Altadena discuss the "Altadena Youth Plan" for the handling of problems of young people.

Whitehead's talk is scheduled as a preliminary to a movement in Torrance sponsored by the Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs to cope with the needs of young people who find themselves in social or legal difficulties.

The meeting tonight will be presided over by Chief of Police John Stroh, president of the Kiwanis club, although the Rotary club, of which William Stanger is acting president, will be host.

The Lions club, largely responsible for the arrangement of the meeting, will be represented by President H. B. Lewis and approximately 30 of its members.

Firemen Save Possible Loss Of Home Here

Firemen yesterday noon took a quick lead over a fire that started in the home of W. R. Feen, 1232 Arroyo ave., bringing the blaze under control soon after arriving.

The property, owned by T. P. Bowen, was said to have been damaged to the extent of \$150 by the fire which was caused by an overheated floor heater, according to J. E. McMaster, Torrance fire chief.

IMPROVEMENT OF HARBOR CITY STREETS ORDERED

City Engineer Lloyd Aldrich, Los Angeles, has been instructed to present to the City Council plans for improvement of 25th street between Senator and President avenues and of President avenues, between 254th and 256th streets.

The proposed plans provide for construction of concrete sidewalks, curbs, gutters and rock and oil road surfacing. The council rescinded its earlier action recommending only a portion of the improvements.

AT MOUNTAIN RESORT

Fred Lincoln, Jr., was host when he entertained recently at Big Bear Lake. His guests, who enjoyed snow sports, were Misses Eloise, of Honolulu, T.H. Audrey Manning of Seattle, Wash., and Patricia Haskell, of Brentwood, all students of Holmby College. A.M.M. 2/c Robert Fitzgerald, U.S.N., from Denver, Colo., and Capt. Walter Harrington of Carmel, also were included.

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noaks)

Dear Professor: What do you consider to have been the greatest mine disaster in history?

Answer: Meln Kampf.

## Storm Water Problem At Local School

Failure to make adequate provisions for storm water drainage from the recently paved U. S. Navy Material Redistribution Center has created quite a mess on Torrance elementary school grounds, the recent storm has revealed.

Water flows over the school grounds from three to six inches deep, cutting a neat channel, and then is sent down 220th st. easterly, making it difficult for children to cross 220th and Martina st.

The flow was augmented during last year when many acres of land within the Navy plant were paved, thus cutting down seepage and causing the increased runoff.

Serious damage to the school property is threatened in addition to the inconvenience caused children getting to and from school during storms.

Lomita Meat Market Named In OPA Suit

OPA stepped into the retail food field today in what was described as its initial move in a drive to force observance of price ceiling rules, when attorneys for the agency filed Superior Court suits charging operators of five markets, located at widely separated points in the county, with exacting excessive prices from purchasers of meat, grocery and produce items.

Three of the suits, prepared by Lee E. Freeman and Rudolf Winkler, enforcement attorneys, seek judgment for treble damages in an amount to be determined up to time of trial and injunctions prohibiting a continuance of the alleged violations, while complaints in the remaining two actions ask the court for judgment suspending defendants' licenses to deal in commodities subject to price control for periods not to exceed 12 months.

Defendants in the treble damage and injunctive actions are: Don's Sausages, operator of meat department in the Central Market, 2312 Lomita Blvd., Lomita; K. W. Olson, Empire Market, 330 Catalina ave., Redondo Beach, and W. P. Kerley, Kerley's Market, 7011 So. Van Ness ave., Los Angeles. License suspension suits were directed against Robert M. Hubner, operator of the meat department of the Save Mart Market, 6417 San Fernando Road, Glendale, and the Holly Bowl Market, 1749 No. Highland ave., Hollywood.

A peace-time company, formed years before the war started, the plant went all-out for defense work, making millions of defense work, making millions of defense work, making millions of defense work.

Felker declared that the company, which manufactures diamond cutting tools, now is operating on a normal peacetime basis, after a short lived outbreak following the end of the war.

CHAMBER MEMBER

Earl Brunner, of the Mayfair Creamery, is a new member of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, according to R. I. Flomert Jr., membership chairman.

MAYOR TOLSON ON EFFICIENCY BOARD

Mayor W. H. Tolson has been named on the "Committee for Study of Government Efficiency" of the Los Angeles county division of the California League of Cities, it was revealed yesterday.

The league will meet in Huntington Park tonight, and the special committee will gather at 4 p. m. with Mayor Tolson in attendance.

CITY CLERK A. H. BARTLETT UNDISPUTED HOLDER OF DUAL POSITIONS, SAYS COURT

Findings of fact and conclusions of law in the attempt of Howard P. Raymond, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, to prevent City Clerk A. H. Bartlett from holding down the additional job as city purchasing agent have been filed showing that Bartlett won a "clean sweep" victory in Superior court, in the case.

The decision of the court reads, in part: "Said defendant, Albert H. Bartlett, is entitled to occupy both the office of City Clerk of Torrance and the position of purchasing agent of and for said city, and to draw, without diminution of either, his salary and compensation for his duties performed in each of said capacities."

The decision granted Bartlett his costs in the matter, "and the plaintiff is entitled to take nothing herein."

The lawsuit which ends all doubt as to Bartlett's right to hold the dual job was filed after the City Council took the position

from City Engineer J. M. Jain, for convenience in handling of city purchasing business.

Bartlett had held the position of purchasing agent during his entire career of nearly 24 years as City Clerk of Torrance, and it was taken from him a few years ago in a councilman's upheaval only to be returned last year.

ABANDON WELL

Standard Oil Company is abandoning its Joughin No. 13 well in the Torrance field, according to State Division of Oil & Gas releases. It is located in section 24, township 4S, 14W.